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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 246
By Haun

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study methods for securing dedicated funding for public transportation in the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, public transportation has taken on increased importance throughout the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides persons throughout the State of Tennessee with safe, reliable and efficient means to travel to and from work, medical appointments, and shopping and recreational trips; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides employers and entrepreneurs of all sizes throughout the State of Tennessee with safe, reliable and efficient means by which consumers and workers alike reach their places of business; and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas throughout the State of Tennessee, public transportation is the only means by which needy citizens can be transported to hospitals, community health centers, and clinics, and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas throughout the State of Tennessee, public transportation is the only means by which senior citizens can be transported to community centers and senior citizens centers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing safe, reliable and efficient public transportation has steadily increased over recent years; and

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WHEREAS, public transportation is provided by cities, towns, counties, transit authorities and in metropolitan governments; and

WHEREAS, federal financial assistance for operating expenses of public transportation has significantly decreased and is likely to decrease further, with the result that an increasing burden will fall on the cities, counties, towns, metropolitan governments, and transit authorities that provide public transportation throughout the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study methods for securing dedicated funding for public transportation in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of two (2) members of the Senate Transportation Committee, two (2) members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, two (2) members of the House Transportation Committee, two (2) members of the House State and Local Government Committee, one (1) representative from the Tennessee Vans Program, one (1) representative from an urban ride share program, the President, or designee, of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association, the President, or designee, of the Tennessee Association of Specialized Transit, and the Director of either the Clarksville, Jackson, or Johnson City Transit System, to be appointed by the respective speakers. The Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall be ex officio members of this committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the 100th General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its finding and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly. At its first meeting, the

special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee is encouraged to hold at least one (1) public hearing in each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall work in consultation with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation on interim reports, to the 1998 session of the One-Hundredth General Assembly, by reporting to the House Transportation Committee, House State and Local Government Committee, Senate Transportation Committee and Senate State and Local Government Committee no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.